

United States. The group's purpose is to preserve and celebrate the culture of Croatia.

Cleveland's Croatian community is among the most robust in North America. Croats have played a pivotal role in developing the businesses and industries which helped make Cleveland great. Their presence provided additional diversity to our growing city and members of the Croatian community have made valuable contributions to the area's athletics, arts, and music. In 1949, Cleveland was the first city to bring traditional Croatian song and dance together with the founding of the American-Croatian Singing Association.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Cleveland Junior Tamburitza, just one of the many bright spots of Cleveland's Croatian community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,973,228,608,405.04.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,334,802,862,111.24 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as the eighth annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The National Cyber Security Alliance, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the Department of Homeland Security, and other organizations developed the "STOP. THINK. CONNECT." national awareness campaign to educate our citizens and help them stay safer online. It is vital that the public is engaged and aware of how to properly utilize security software in order to protect their social security numbers, financial information, health information, and other personal data. We must all work together and take responsibility for securing our own networks and computers to ensure that government systems, personal data and even critical infrastructure remain safe from attack.

Recently, Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn noted to Foreign Affairs magazine that our Nation is shifting its priorities in cyberspace, recognizing that attacks online can be as threatening as bullets and bombs. Additionally, the importance of cyber to not just our national security, but also our economic competitiveness, cannot be overstated. The vulnerabilities our Nation faces in cyberspace come from potential attacks against critical infrastructure, as described by Lee Hamilton in

his post 9/11 report, as well as from damage to our military readiness, as Secretary of Defense Panetta testified earlier this year. But our vulnerabilities also include the intellectual property that is a critical driver of our economy.

Cyber threats to our intellectual property are growing more numerous, sophisticated, and successful. As noted by a recent report from the National Counter Intelligence Executive, vital intellectual property is targeted and stolen in cyberspace every day as these threats become more damaging and extensive. While the cost of a data breach can run well into the millions, even that loss is dwarfed by the long term damage to America's ability to remain the world leader in innovation, especially in our high tech and defense sectors.

All of this should tell us that the status quo is not good enough. We need to redouble our efforts and tap into our creative and innovative spirit to address not just the threats of today, but the challenges of tomorrow as well. This will require better education and action from both industry and government, as we come together to strengthen our public-private partnership. But if we fail to leverage our own abilities and work through these challenges, our personal privacy, national security and economic competitiveness will be irreparably harmed.

I applaud the Department of Homeland Security for sponsoring this month of outreach. As a Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the House Cybersecurity Caucus, I will continue to fight to deliver the latest tools and training to support both our national security infrastructure and the personal data of all Americans.

VOTER SUPPRESSION IN AMERICA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my fellow colleagues to urge this Congress to protect our access to the ballot, which has come under assault in several states across America.

The strongest sound that exists in a democratic society is the one voiced during our elections. However, I am troubled that over 5 million Americans are at risk of having their votes suppressed by laws that have turned back the clock on significant freedoms and accessibility achieved in many states before the 2010 elections.

Today, I stand in strong opposition to legislative tools that aim to repress the most important right to civic engagement and empowerment, the right to vote.

The impact of recent voter suppression laws is spiraling out of control, as evidenced by recent current events. For example, a 96-year-old Tennessee woman was denied a voter ID under Tennessee's new law because she was unable to locate her marriage certificate—even though she produced everything from a copy of her lease, voter registration card, birth certificate and a rent receipt. After voting for over 70 years in all but two elections, this was the first time her right to vote was suppressed.

Even our Nation's soldiers and war heroes have been disenfranchised by some of these new laws. Recently, an 86-year-old World War

II veteran had to pay for a voter photo ID, even though the state law required that the IDs be given free of charge. Another 91-year-old woman was reportedly unable to receive her ID because she was physically unable to stand in long and crowded lines at the DMV with her cane.

Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison serve as a microcosm of college populations that now face extreme hurdles as their once-accepted student ID cards no longer qualify as acceptable forms of ID in several states. And news of a Florida teacher being unable to register several of her students—an act she customarily does every year as part of her educational curriculum on civic engagement highlights the civil penalties third party registrants face as they merely attempt to assist others become part of the political process.

This suppression is affecting all classes, races, and ages, and we owe it to the general public to join in their public outrage against these attacks, which threaten to move America backwards to a period in our history that was ugly, discriminatory and crippling.

At the core of all fundamental rights is the right to vote. As voting rights experts have noted, the recent stream of laws passed at the state level are a reversal of policies—both federal and state—that were intended to combat voter disenfranchisement and boost voter participation. That is why I sent a letter to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee this week, asking that hearings be held to ensure that our federal laws in place to protect access to voting are being enforced.

Ensuring that every veteran, senior citizen, student—whether natural born or naturalized—has the right to vote should not be a partisan issue. It should be the very purpose of this Congress since it is a priority to our democracy. I urge every elected official who is a beneficiary of our electoral system, to support the protection of every American citizen's right to have access to voting.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, October 31, 2011.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: We write to request a hearing to address the wave of recent changes in state voting laws that make it more difficult for Americans to cast a ballot. A recent report released by the Brennan Center for Justice entitled "Voting Law Changes in 2012" has concluded that more than 5 million voters could be impacted by the recently enacted legislation. The provisions that present the most serious concerns include:

Provisions that limit voting by requiring the presentation of photo identification:

Laws that exclude the most common forms of identification (e.g., student IDs and Social Security cards), yet offer no alternate identification procedures for eligible voters.

Changes requiring proof of citizenship as a condition for voter registration:

Limitations or outright elimination of early voting opportunities.

Barriers to first time voters such as the elimination of same day registration and limitations on voter mobilization efforts.

These changes in state voting laws raise serious constitutional concerns under both the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fifteenth Amendment. For example, requiring citizens to expend significant funds to obtain a photo